

Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission
Commission Meeting
Wednesday, October 3, 2007
Missouri Army National Guard Armory-Saint Joseph, MO
www.mmpec.ded.mo.gov

Members in Attendance: Chairman Dalton Wright, Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce, Jeff Bloemker, Senator Bill Stouffer, Kent Thomas, and Representative Terry Witte

Members Absent: Senator Frank Barnitz and Robert Welling

Guests in Attendance: Guests from the 139th Airlift Wing; Guests from the 180th Airlift Squadron; Guests from the AATTC; Guests from the Missouri National Guard; Members of the Media; Hal Dulle, Executive Director of Missouri Veterans Commission; Pat Kerr, Ombudsman Missouri Veterans Commission; Becky Wolken, Missouri Veterans Commission; MG King Sidwell, Missouri National Guard; Bill McCoy, Missouri Department of Economic Development; Kevin Stover, Missouri Department of Economic Development; Krista Zurkamer, Missouri Department of Economic Development

Chairman Dalton Wright called the MMPEC October 3, 2007 meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Chairman Wright welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all in attendance for their support. He extended a special thanks to the 139th Airlift Wing, 180th Airlift Squadron, AATTC and MG Sidwell for the invitation and their hospitality.

The board members, supporting staff and guests made introductions.

The minutes from the July 25, 2007 meeting were introduced and reviewed. Chairman Dalton Wright called for additions and/or corrections to the minutes.

Corrections for the July 25, 2007 minutes included the following...

1. Pg.2 first paragraph the word "our" changed to their.
2. Pg.3 second paragraph change "invite today" to invitation. Same paragraph change "for he has a son currently on tour" to His son is currently deployed overseas.
3. Pg.3 fifth paragraph lower case "Ex-service members" to ex-service members.
4. Pg. 4 first paragraph replace "the appropriate amount" to copies.
5. Pg.4 third paragraph replace "The total conference participation was 700 people" to 700 people participated in the conference. Same paragraph change the two retired four star generals to two retired one star generals.
6. Pg.4 last paragraph change "and Knob Noster was represented by the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent" to with both the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent attending.
7. Pg.5 second paragraph delete "enabling the Commission some incredible networking opportunities and resources".
8. Pg.5 fourth paragraph replace the word "Legacy" with Listing.

9. Pg.5 fifth paragraph replace “working and comprising” with composing.

With said corrections Chairman Wright asked for a motion to approve said minutes. Vice Chairman Representative David Pearce moved, Senator Bill Stouffer seconded the motion to accept the July 25, 2007 minutes with said corrections. All approved, motion carried.

MCEC Letter, Krista Zurkamer

Krista Zurkamer gave an update on the status of the letter sent out by MMPEC encouraging school districts to participate in the Memorandum of Agreement entitled “The Guiding Principles For Addressing Issues of Transitioning Military Students” produced by the Military Child Education Coalition, MCEC. Letters were sent out to the school district located near a military installation absent from the signatory. The letter also went to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The Commission has already seen some feedback from school districts most asking for additional information. The MMPEC have found that many of the quality of life issues facing military families in Missouri are education related. The MCEC addresses many of the issues being evaluated by the US Department of Defense when evaluating whether or not if a state is military friendly. The MMPEC has become a member of the MCEC and will continue to utilize this resource.

Chairman Dalton Wright gave an overview to the audience of what MMPEC is currently working on. MMPEC has solicited comments and recommendations from military service families in Missouri, we want to know what is working and what isn’t working. MMPEC will continue to gather information. Some of the areas of interest thus far have been: education, child care, conservation, and revenue. Discussion continued about some of specific issues within these areas.

Missouri Veterans Commission, Hal Dulle and Pat Kerr

Hal Dulle thanked the Commission for the invitation to join them today. He also thanked the members of 139th, 180th and AATTC for their participation in today’s events. Mr. Dulle introduced Pat Kerr, Veterans Ombudsman, whom will proceed with the Missouri Veterans Commission Report. Ms. Kerr proceeded in giving an overview of the programming available with the MVC. The MVC has Veterans Service Officers located in almost every county of the state to make services available to Veterans. Some of the benefits for which veterans qualify for are VA Compensation/Pension, medical, and educational assistance. The MVC has created a network of veterans cemeteries so that every Missouri veteran will have reasonable access to a veterans cemetery. Four cemeteries are in operation at this time; Springfield, Higginsville, Bloomfield, and Jacksonville. A fifth cemetery will be located adjacent to Fort Leonard Wood in 2009. The Missouri Veterans Commission Homes Program operates seven veterans homes. The Missouri Veterans Homes manage a total of 1350 beds. The homes are located in Cameron, Cape Girardeau, Mexico, Mount Vernon, St. James, St. Louis, and Warrensburg. Operation Outreach is a kinetic program focused on the delivery of

resources, financial and otherwise to the Global War on Terror service members, families and veterans. In addition, the program also assists in extraordinary issues facing prior service veterans in areas such as: financial constraints due to deployment, transition issues facing the family, legal issues as a result of service commitment, job retraining due to deployment injury, education needs for service members or family, and advocacy for appropriate medical care for PTSD & undiagnosed traumatic brain injury. The MVC has appointed a women veterans coordinator and her mission is to ensure that Missouri women veterans have equitable access to federal and state veterans services and to ensure women veterans are aware of their VA benefits. The MVC has also established a Minority Veterans Program specifically to reach out to minority veterans in Missouri.

Chairman Dalton Wright commended the MVC with special note to Ms. Kerr for their dedication and endless work benefiting our troops and veterans.

Chairman Dalton Wright reminded the Commission and guests that our next meeting will be November 7, 2007 in Jefferson City. This meeting will be a work meeting for the 2007 MMPEC Annual Report.

Chairman Dalton Wright thanked again the 139th Airlift Wing, 180th Airlift Squadron, AATTC and MG Sidwell for today's activities.

With no further business Chairman Dalton Wright adjourned the meeting at 3:51 p.m.

Minutes Approved:



Dalton Wright, Chair

7-November-2007

Date